GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:107
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2008
SIDE EFFECTS OF MEDICINES CONTAINING KODIN
Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan;Tripathi Shri Chandramani

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the medicines containing Kodin could be harmful as reported in the `Hindustan` dated January 8, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its side effects on human health;

(c) whether cough syrups containing Kodin are available in the country without medical prescription under several brand names; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 107 FOR 5TH MARCH, 2008

A news item under the caption `Nuksaan Pahuncha Sakti Hai Codein Yukt Dawa` has appeared in the newspaper Hindustan, Hindi ediction on 8.1.2008. This news item apparently is based on U.S. Food and Drug Administration Home Page published under FDA Public Health Advisory.

Medicines containing Codeine can be harmful if these are taken without Doctor`s Prescription. Large doses of Codeine may cause excitement and convulsions. Central effects appear to be limited but are dose related. The Drug can cause effects which may include drowsiness, nausea, urinary retention, constipation, dry mouth, orthosatic hypotension, bradycardia, pruritus, etc. Overdoses may cause acute codeine intoxication and respiratory failure in children.

Codeine is a Schedule H drug (Prescription Drugs) of the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules. Considering the abuse potential of the formulations containing Codeine, the sale of cough syrups and other habit forming drugs is restricted and these drugs available in the pharmacies are sold only against the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner.